Fire Weather Monitoring Stations Installation

Full Mitigation Best Practice Story

State-wide, Delaware

The State of Delaware - Severe snow and ice storms in Delaware often cause numerous downed trees. The dried trees create extreme forest fuel loading which contributes to major fires in Delaware pine forests on an annual basis. These conditions lead to extra budget demands for personnel overtime, aircraft rentals for suppression, and reimbursement of volunteer equipment damage and losses.

A reduction in loss to State forest lands is obtainable through an elevation in readiness, public warnings, fire bans and restrictions, and budgeting for manpower before fires occur. The Fire Weather Monitoring Stations project was submitted with the support of the State of Delaware, FEMA, and the Delaware Department of Agriculture. Contact with the US Forest Service and other state forestry groups provided data for justification of the project.

The estimated value of one acre of good timber is approximately $1,500. Between 1989 and 1992, Delaware lost about 40 acres to fire. Installation of the system will cut response time by 10 percent and acreage loss to about four acres. Since the installation of the project, Delaware has not experienced a fire season that would exercise the system.

Activity/Project Location

Geographical Area:	**State-wide**
FEMA Region:	**Region III**
State:	**Delaware**

Key Activity/Project Information

Sector:	**Public**
Hazard Type:	**Wildfire**
Activity/Project Type:	**Land Use/Planning; Vegetation Management; Warning Systems**
Activity/Project Start Date:	**01/1997**
Activity/Project End Date:	**12/1997**
Funding Source:	**Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP); State sources**
Funding Recipient:	**State Government**
Funding Recipient Name:	**Delaware Dept. of Agriculture**

Activity/Project Economic Analysis

Cost:	**$28,000.00 (Actual)**

Activity/Project Disaster Information

Mitigation Resulted From Federal Disaster?	**Unknown**
Value Tested By Disaster?	**No**
Repetitive Loss Property?	**Unknown**

Reference URLs

Reference URL 1:	**http://www.usfa.fema.gov/**
Reference URL 2:	**http://www.state.de.us/dema/default.shtml**

Main Points

- The estimated value of one acre of good timber is approximately $1,500. Between 1989 and 1992, Delaware lost about 40 acres to fire.
- Severe snow and ice storms cause downed trees. The dried trees create extreme forest fuel loading which contributes to major fires in Delaware pine forests on an annual basis.
- Wildfires lead to extra budget demands for personnel overtime, aircraft rentals for suppression, and reimbursement of volunteer equipment damage and losses.
- The Fire Weather Monitoring Stations will elevate readiness, warn the public, enforce fire bans and restrictions, and proactively budget for manpower before fires occurs.